



# Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## **RE: THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHILD PROTECTION INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dear Supervisors:

The purpose of this brief letter is to provide context for the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection's (Commission) interim recommendations as the Board deliberates today. The Commission is fully committed to producing a final report that recommends fundamental changes, which will enhance the County's ability to ensure safety for the children of Los Angeles County. We believe the County challenges regarding child safety and freedom from abuse and neglect are large and systemic, and our final report will reflect that belief.

We fully recognize the Interim Report contains recommendations that request action on the part of the Board without the benefit of the Commission's full analysis and final recommendations. We weighed the potential drawback of endorsing a limited set of recommendations against the fact that our work to this point already revealed areas that, if addressed, could immediately improve child safety and perhaps save children's lives. We want to be clear that the recommendations in the Interim Report will not alone be sufficient to ensure the type of sustained improvements in child safety we all want to see. However, we ultimately concluded that it would be unconscionable to unearth issues the County could address immediately that would result in improved child safety and not bring those issues to the Board's attention. That was augmented by our findings that these changes are feasible based on the testimony and actions of departments, and that by identifying a lead department for each recommendation it may be possible to implement changes that can immediately improve child safety.

Finally, while our recommendations are focused on child safety, we are fully cognizant of the fiscal constraints faced by the County and, wherever possible, have and will provide recommendations that have limited or no additional costs. In fact, in some cases, we have

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explored funding strategies utilized by other states or counties that can be models for Los Angeles. Nevertheless, we view our primary task as providing a set of recommendations that first and foremost improve child safety.

Therefore, we urge the Board of Supervisors to support efforts to implement the law enforcement and health care recommendations included in our Interim Report. We will continue to work on a final report that provides a set of systemic comprehensive recommendations that will ensure sustained long-term accountability and performance. We look forward to continuing our critically important work.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Sanders, Chair, Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection

Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, Vice Chair, Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection

Judge Dickran M. Tevrizian, Vice Chair, Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection